

New Jersey Information Network for Pesticides & Alternative Strategies

The New Jersey Information Network for Pesticides & Alternative Strategies (NJinPAS) is part of a grant-funded network designed to provide a structure to gather and transmit information on issues relevant to both current and transitional pest management strategies. The NJinPAS project is directed by Dr. George Hamilton, Specialist in Pest Management for Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Funded by the 'Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center' (NE IPMC), the NJinPAS is part of a larger collaboration including land-grant universities of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania, and New England. New Jersey's participation in this network maximizes regional resources and communication, and assures New Jersey's representation at the national level.

Its purpose is to improve the level of knowledge, awareness, and understanding of local, State, regional, and national pest management practices. New Jersey stakeholders will be instrumental in identifying State pest management issues; these will be clearly outlined in crop profiles and strategy plans. The information gathered and distributed by NJinPAS is key to informed decision-making by Federal regulators on pest management issues that will impact New Jersey. Further, New Jersey stakeholders will receive timely advisories of regional or national changes in pest management strategies or regulations that may impact them.

NJinPAS goals and objectives are guided by an **Advisory Committee** comprised of New Jersey stakeholders representing a diversity of perspectives and technical expertise. This committee includes representatives from commodity groups, grower organizations, environmental and public interest groups, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, research faculty of the Rutgers University College of Agriculture and Environmental Science, the Pesticide Control Program of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, and pesticide registrants.

Current goals and objectives funded for NJinPAS include:

- Deliver pesticide regulatory information to the green industry, growers, crop consultants, pesticide users, and Extension faculty and staff in New Jersey;
- Gather pest management data and input from researchers, the green industry, growers, crop consultants, pesticide users, regulators, and Extension faculty and staff in New Jersey;
- Analyze information gathered and impacts of changes in pesticide regulations on agricultural productivity in New Jersey; share this information with New Jersey stakeholders, other mid-Atlantic states, the NE PMC, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); and
- Solicit similar information from other states in the mid-Atlantic region on shared commodities.
- Expedite delivery to New Jersey stakeholders of more timely pesticide-related information (such as regulation advisories or requests for comment). Accordingly, NJinPAS has set up an **email listserv and mailing infrastructure** that includes growers, the green industry, crop consultants, pesticide users, public interest groups, environmental groups, and Extension faculty and staff. To minimize mass mailings, current listserv subgroups are as follows:
 - Network (all);
 - Advisory Committee;
 - State Partners;
 - School IPM;
 - Institutions & Interiors;
 - Mosquito;
 - Fruit;
 - Turf, Ornamentals, Greenhouse, & Nursery;
 - Forests & Xmas Trees
 - Field & Forage Crops; and
 - Vegetables
 - Invasives
- Compile and analyze New Jersey pesticide survey results for regional and local distribution subsequent to the transmittal of raw pesticide user survey data for 2003. This data will be used in the preparation of **crop profiles and pest management strategy plans (PMSPs)** that will be utilized by government agencies making regulatory decisions. Pesticide surveys, crop profiles, and PMSPs and other NJinPAS-generated resources are announced on the listservs and posted online at the NJinPAS website @ www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/index.htm.
- NJinPAS-funded Workgroups have prepared new crop profiles for apples, carrots, eggplant, and field corn in New Jersey. Previously published crop profiles for asparagus, cranberry, alfalfa, peaches, spinach, and squash were reviewed and revised as new data became available. New crop profiles for kale, tomato, green pepper, honey bee, and sweet potato are scheduled for release in 2004 - 2005. Profiles for cucumber and pumpkin will be among those profiled in 2005 -2006.
- A NJinPAS Peach PMSP Workgroup produced a Pest Management Strategy Plan for Peaches in New Jersey; a PMSP for Carrot in New Jersey will be issued in 2005. NJinPAS has cooperated in the production of regional PMSPs for Spinach, Apple, and Lima Bean.

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